



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 503

February Session, 2000

Substitute Senate Bill No. 470

Senate, April 11, 2000

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. CRISCO of the 17th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning The Vocational-Technical Schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2 of public act 99-281 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) On and after July 1, 1999, the Commissioner of Education shall
4 include school building projects for the regional vocational-technical
5 schools on the list developed pursuant to section 10-283, as amended.
6 Prior to inclusion on the list, such projects shall be reviewed by the
7 Department of Public Works. The adoption of the list by the General
8 Assembly and authorization by the State Bond Commission of the
9 issuance of bonds pursuant to section 10-287d shall fund the full cost
10 of the projects. Funds for the projects shall be transferred to the
11 Department of Public Works and, upon such transfer, the projects shall
12 be subject to the requirements of chapters 59 and 60.

13 (b) The Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the

14 Department of Education, shall prequalify construction design
15 professionals for purposes of school building projects for the
16 vocational-technical schools and shall develop and update every four
17 years a list of such prequalified design professionals. For the purposes
18 of this subsection "construction design professional" means (1) any
19 person licensed as an architect under the provisions of chapter 390, (2)
20 any person licensed, or exempted from licensure, as an engineer under
21 the provisions of chapter 391, or (3) any corporation organized to
22 render professional services through the practice of either or both of
23 such professions in this state.

24 (c) The Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the
25 Department of Education, shall prequalify building contractors for
26 purposes of school building projects for the vocational-technical
27 schools and shall maintain a list of such prequalified building
28 contractors.

29 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-95i of the general statutes is
30 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

31 (a) Not later than January 1, 1990, and every five years thereafter,
32 the State Board of Education shall adopt a long-range plan of priorities
33 and goals for the regional vocational-technical school system. The plan
34 shall address coordination with other providers of vocational,
35 technical or technological education or training and shall include (1) an
36 analysis of the activities described in subsections (b) [to (d), inclusive,]
37 and (c) of this section and how such activities relate to the long-range
38 plan of priorities and goals and a summary of activities related to
39 capital improvements and (2) equipment pursuant to subsection (d) of
40 this section. Upon adoption of the plan, the state board shall file the
41 plan with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
42 having cognizance of matters relating to education, finance, revenue
43 and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The
44 state board shall use the plan in preparing its five-year comprehensive

45 plan pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-4.

46 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 10-95i of the general statutes is
47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

48 (d) The State Board of Education shall maintain a rolling five-year
49 capital improvement and capital equipment plan that identifies: (1)
50 Alterations, renovations and repairs that each vocational-technical
51 school is expected to need, including, but not limited to, grounds and
52 athletic fields, heating and ventilation systems, wiring, roofs, and
53 windows, and the cost of such projects, (2) recommendations for
54 energy efficiency improvements to each school and the cost of such
55 improvements, and (3) the specific equipment each regional
56 vocational-technical school is expected to need, based on the useful life
57 of existing equipment and projections of changing technology and the
58 estimated cost of the equipment. The State Board of Education shall
59 submit such plan, annually, to the joint standing committees of the
60 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
61 finance, revenue and bonding and appropriations and the budgets of
62 state agencies.

63 Sec. 4. (NEW) The Department of Education shall provide in-service
64 training programs, in accordance with subsection (a) of section 10-220a
65 of the general statutes, for the teachers, administrators and pupil
66 personnel employed in the vocational-technical schools who hold the
67 initial educator, provisional educator or professional educator
68 certificate. In addition, the department shall provide programs to
69 enhance the knowledge and skill level of such teachers in their
70 vocational or technical field.

71 Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 2 of public act 99-242 is repealed and
72 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

73 (i) For the Department of Education: Alterations and improvements
74 to buildings and grounds, including new and replacement equipment,

75 tools, supplies, vehicles and technology upgrades at all Regional
76 Vocational-Technical Schools, not exceeding \$15,000,000.

77 Sec. 6. Subsection (h) of section 21 of public act 99-242 is repealed
78 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

79 (h) For the Department of Education: Alterations and improvements
80 to buildings and grounds, including new and replacement equipment,
81 tools, supplies, vehicles and technology upgrades at all Regional
82 Vocational-Technical Schools, not exceeding \$15,000,000.

83 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect from its passage, except that sections
84 1 to 4, inclusive, and 6, shall take effect July 1, 2000.

ED Committee Vote: Yea 30 Nay 0 JFS C/R APP

APP Committee Vote: Yea 47 Nay 0 JFS

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Savings

Affected Agencies: Department of Education

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

The bill provides for a pre-qualification of design professionals for VT school projects which may speed construction and reduce state costs. All other sections of the bill are technical and/or have no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 470

AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill:

1. requires the Department of Public Works (DPW), in conjunction with the State Department of Education (SDE), to prequalify design professionals and contractors for vocational-technical (V-T) school building projects;
2. requires SDE to maintain a continually updated five-year V-T school capital improvement plan;
3. requires SDE to provide in-service training for certified V-T school staff; and
4. allows SDE to buy tools and supplies with money from the \$15 million in annual bonding authorized for FY 1999-00 and FY 2000-01 for V-T school equipment, vehicles, and technology equipment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000, except the change regarding use of the bonding for FY 1999-00 takes effect on passage.

PREQUALIFICATION LISTS

The bill requires DPW, in conjunction with SDE, to maintain a list of prequalified licensed architects and engineers and a second list of prequalified building contractors for V-T school building projects. DPW must update the list of prequalified architects and engineers every four years. The bill gives no specific schedule for updating the contractor list.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to maintain a rolling five-year capital improvement plan for the V-T schools. The plan must identify (1) the alterations, repairs, and renovations each school needs, including for grounds, athletic fields, heating and ventilation systems, wiring, roofs, and windows, (2) the cost of the projects, and (3) recommendations for energy efficiency improvements for each school and the cost of the improvements.

The law already requires SDE to maintain a rolling five-year capital equipment plan for the V-T schools that identifies the specific equipment each school is expected to need and the cost. This bill combines the existing capital equipment plan with the new capital improvement plan. It requires SBE to submit the combined plan annually to the Education; Finance, Revenue and Bonding; and Appropriations committees.

The bill also requires SBE, as part of the long-range plan of goals and priorities for the schools that it must already adopt every five years, to include a summary of capital equipment and capital improvement activities.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

The bill requires SDE to provide the same kind of in-service training for V-T staff who hold teaching certificates as local and regional public schools must provide for their certified staff. In addition, it requires SDE to provide in-service training to enhance teachers' knowledge and skill in their vocational or technical fields.

BACKGROUND

In-Service Training for Certified Teachers

By law, local and regional boards of education must offer at least 18 hours of professional development activities per year at no cost to certified staff. The activities must qualify for the 90 hours of continuing educational credit each certified teacher or school administrator must take every five years to maintain his certificate. The activities must (1) be planned in response to specific needs, (2) be provided by qualified

instructors, (3) share their requirements with participants beforehand, (4) be evaluated for effectiveness and contribution to school or district-wide goals, and (5) be documented according to SDE procedures.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 30 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 47 Nay 0